

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD'S PEOPLE **(1 Peter 2:9-10)**

I. We are to be people of purpose.

- A. God's people have a very noble purpose in life.
 - 1. You and I are not seeking after treasure or fame.
 - 2. You and I are not seeking after earthly pleasure as so many are doing today.
- B. Solomon told us long ago what our purpose in life is (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
 - 1. We are to fear God - hold Him in great awe and respect.
 - 2. We are to keep His commandments.
- C. The New Testament teaches us the same thing.
 - 1. We are here to please God, not self (1 Thessalonians 4:1).
 - 2. We are to work with the Judgment Day on our minds (2 Corinthians 5:9-10).
- D. You and I all know people who believe that life consists of what they have or can get.
 - 1. We are plainly told that life for the Christian does not concern things of this life.
 - 2. Luke 12:15.
- E. Rather, you and I are to be laying up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).
- F. The things we do are to be done to God's glory (Matthew 5:16).
- G. Jesus understood and preached this while on earth (John 9:4).
- H. God loves all men and all men can go to heaven if they so choose.
 - 1. That is up to each one of us.
 - 2. God makes it available, and we decide if we want to go or not, by fulfilling God's purpose for us.

II. We are to be a people of purity.

- A. Christians have been given the great task of leading pure lives before God and our fellow men.
- B. 1 Timothy 5:22.
 - 1. This was a charge to a young preacher.
 - 2. In reality, it is a charge given to all of us.
- C. Only the pure in heart are going to see God (Matthew 5:8).
- D. Notice Hebrews 12:14.
 - 1. It is very simple isn't it.
 - 2. Without holiness, another word for purity, we won't see God.
- E. Paul gives a list of sins in Galatians 5 and 1 Corinthians 6 and in both we are told that those that do such will not enter the kingdom of heaven.
 - 1. The Bible closes by saying no sin will be in heaven (Revelation 21:27).
 - 2. And, the ungodly will be on the outside (Revelation 22:15).
- F. The only way to be pure is by obeying the word of God (1 Peter 1:22).
 - 1. God's word is our standard and guide.
 - 2. The life of Jesus is our pattern.

III. We are to be people of prayer.

- A. In prayer, we do several things:
 - 1. We honor God;
 - 2. We make our requests known to Him (Philippians 4:6);
 - 3. We give thanks (Galatians 5:20);
 - 4. We confess our sins (1 John 1:9; Acts 8:22; Luke 18:13).
- B. Each of these are vital to our spiritual lives.
- C. It is for this reason that Paul simply told the Thessalonians to pray without ceasing.
 - 1. We are to be able to God at any time with our prayers.
 - 2. Our dependence on God is shown through our prayers (Colossians 4:2).
- D. Jesus was one who was given to prayer.
 - 1. He got up early to pray (Mark 1:35).
 - 2. He stayed up late to pray (Luke 6:12).
 - 3. Jesus even taught the importance of prayer (Luke 18:1).
- E. With so many areas of concern in this life, we must be people of prayer.

IV. We are to be people of power.

- A. God has given us the means to be strong (2 Timothy 1:7).
- B. You and I are to be strong in Christ (Ephesians 6:10-11).
- C. We have the greatest tool of strength in this world at our disposal.
 - 1. Hebrews 4:12.
 - 2. Romans 1:16.
- D. We have the indestructible, unfailing word of God to give us all the strength we need.
- E. Not only that, we have a great brotherhood of fellow Christians who respond whenever we need them.
- F. There are many things in this life we have to endure and they all take power to do such.
 - 1. There is discouragement.
 - 2. There is physical pain and suffering.
 - 3. There is all types of evil.
- G. We have been commanded to not grow weary (2 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 4:16).
- H. The only way that this will happen is if we rely on the power God has given us, His word and His people, to make it through to the end.

From an outline by Mark Posey.